## DOH-PINELLAS JOINS EFFORT TO REDUCE NEW HIV CASES WITH MEDICATION

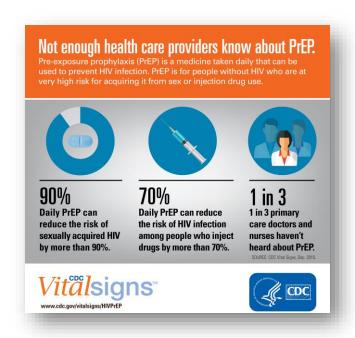


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The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) takes part in Zero Pinellas, a community partnership to reduce new HIV cases. It also works with the agencies in the Pinellas Planning Partnership to provide testing and resources for HIV-positive people.

DOH-Pinellas is also providing an important weapon in the fight against new HIV cases at the



St. Petersburg clinic, 205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., and the Mid-County clinic, 8751 Ulmerton Rd., Largo. It's called **PrEP**.

What is PrEP? It's short for "Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis," a drug treatment to reduce cases of HIV/AIDS. Those at risk of developing HIV take medication that cuts their chances of getting HIV by 90 percent. PrEP candidates are HIV-negative people at risk of developing HIV. They agree to take a daily pill called Truvada. Every three months, PrEP clients receive a new supply of the medication. Truvada is used with other safe-sex strategies such as condoms to be effective.

"PrEP is a big step toward reducing new cases of HIV," said DOH-Pinellas Director Dr. Ulyee Choe. "Along with PrEP, we are continuing to promote safe sex and regular screenings to reduce HIV rates."

Go to <a href="http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/prep-basics/index.html">http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/prep-basics/index.html</a> for information about PrEP at DOH-Pinellas. To find HIV testing sites throughout the state, go to <a href="https://flhiv.doh.state.fl.us/ClinicSearch/ClinicSearch.aspx">https://flhiv.doh.state.fl.us/ClinicSearch/ClinicSearch.aspx</a>.

For information about DOH-Pinellas, go to <a href="https://www.PinellasHealth.com">www.PinellasHealth.com</a> and follow us on Twitter @HealthyPinellas.

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